

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An optical device for forming an image of fingerprints, comprising:

an optical plate (1) with: a first main face (2) constituting a face for affixing a finger (3) of which an image of the fingerprints is to be obtained, a first lateral face (4) shaped arranged as a convergent mirror, and a second lateral face (5), opposite the first lateral face (4) and forming the an exit face of the optical plate which defines an angle greater than 90° with said first main face,

at least one light source (7) for illuminating said first main face (2) through the optical plate (1),

a focusing objective (9), situated located opposite said exit face (5) of the optical plate and having its , said focusing objective having an object focal point situated substantially in the a focal plane of the said convergent mirror, and

a diaphragm (10) provided with an aperture (11), said diaphragm being interposed between said exit face (5) and said focusing objective (9) and situated substantially in the vicinity to the said focusing objective, characterized in that said first main face (2) of the optical plate (1) forms, with the exit face (5) of this optical plate, an angle of greater than 90° wherein a plane defined by said first main face defines an angle between 2° and 25° with a plane perpendicular to said exit face and intersects said diaphragm under and close to said aperture thereof, whereby the angle of incidence of the light rays on said first main face, inside the optical plate, is increased and the stray radiation arriving at the exit face is decreased, at the same time as a major part of the stray light transmitted from said exit face is intercepted by said diaphragm under said aperture thereof, while the thickness of the optical plate can be reduced.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The optical device as claimed in claim [[4]] 1, characterized in that wherein said angle of inclination of the first main face (2) is around 10°.

6. (Currently Amended) The optical device as claimed in any one of claims claim 1 to 5, the said optical plate (1) possessing having third and fourth lateral faces (8) extending respectively between said first and second lateral faces (4, 5) and mutually opposed, characterized in that wherein said third and fourth lateral faces (8) are inclined towards one another from the first lateral face (2) and in that wherein at least one light source (7) is disposed opposite facing at least one of the third and fourth lateral faces.

7. (Currently Amended) The optical device as claimed in any one of claims claim 1 to 6, characterized in that the wherein said optical plate (1) and the said focusing objective (9) are constituted in the form of grouped as one single piece (13) having a slot (14) defined by the said exit face (5) of the said optical plate (1) and the said entrance face of the said focusing objective (9), said slot (14) being shaped so as to receive said diaphragm (10).

8. (Currently Amended) The optical device as claimed in any one of claims claim 1 to 7, characterized in that wherein a mirror is located downstream of the said focusing objective (9) a mirror (15) is located being and is arranged so as to reflect the luminous radiation substantially perpendicularly to the said optical plate.